



Winter Trail Access and Condition Update March 10th – March 18th, 2022

Winter Trail Highlights

- Most SnoParks on the Forest still have adequate snow coverage, although low elevation SnoParks are showing increasing bare ground. The general condition of the snowpack is a small amount of light powder atop a dense hardpack. The weather is supposed to warm throughout the week and there is a chance of high elevation rain by early next week, so conditions will be dynamic.
- Expect moderate to heavy crowds at all developed recreation sites, especially over the weekends. Have a back-up plan as many parking areas are filling to capacity early in the day. **DO NOT PARK** in an illegal or unsafe location.
- Most of the temporary signs in the Dutchman-Moon Mountain area have been installed. However, many boundaries are unmarked. It is the visitor's responsibility to know where they are.
- Through April 30th, dogs are prohibited on the north side of Cascade Lakes Highway, including Meissner, Swampy, Vista and Dutchman Sno-Parks.
- Portions of Snowmobile Trail #3 and Snowmobile Trail #25 are closed. See inside for more details.
- Summer trail conditions are a mixed bag. Please do not use muddy trails. Temporary closure in Phil's Trail system. See inside for more details.
- Many area roads are closed through April 1st including the Tumalo Winter Range and those that serve as winter trails. Use a map or smart phone app to make sure you know where you are.



Winter trail signage is there to help visitors have a safe and enjoyable experience. Signs like this are posted on snowmobile trails. It is important to be aware of trail restrictions so you don't create a hazard for yourself or others.



For early March, the snowpack is looking pretty weak. This recent photo is taken at Ray Benson SnoPark. Although we did receive a small amount of recent snow, warm temps are back this week.

Special area restrictions or notations relating to the table below are as follows:

- 1 = Area/trails closed to dogs except working dogs in harness on groomed snowmobile trails and only with a permit**
- 2 = Area open to dogs**
- 3 = Area/trails closed to motorized use**
- 4 = Vehicles with trailers limited to 40' overall length**
- 5 = High to extreme use with special area/trail restrictions, see SnoPark information board, trail maps and area signing for full details. Very limited parking, try to avoid on weekends and holidays.**

Deschutes National Forest SnoPark Trail Conditions

Last Updated: March 9th, 2022

General snow conditions: Light, fresh snow atop dense hardpack. Forecast is for warming trend with possible rain/snow mix early next week.

****Conditions subject to change without notice and at whim of nature.****

SNO-PARK NAME Designated trails or activities with numerical notations explained above	LOCATION Hwy or Road and milepost	PARK ELEV.	APPROX. SNOW DEPTH TOTAL	SNOW CONDITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS
Meissner 1,3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 14	5,350'	12-30"	Fair conditions. Area roads closed through April 1 st . No dogs.
Wanoga Snow Play 2,3,5 Sledding Groomed ski/dog trails Groomed Fatbike	HWY 46, MP 15	5,400'	18-30"	Fair conditions. Expect heavy use all the time. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31. Pack home broken sleds and all trash.
Wanoga Snowmobile 2 Snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 15	5,500'	18-36"	Fair conditions. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31.
Swampy 1,3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 16	5,800'	30-54"	Fair conditions. No dogs. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31
Vista Butte 1,3 Ski/snowshoe	HWY 46, MP 18	5,950'	24-60"	Fair conditions. Area north of parking area closed to snowmobiles, use Kapka Butte or Wanoga.



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Dutchman 1 4 5 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	HWY 46, MP 22	6,250'	42-66"	Fair conditions. Limited parking/no overnight camping. 40' max length limit for vehicle/trailer combination. Expect heavy use all the time!
Kapka Butte 2 Snowmobiling/ski/shoe	¼ mi. south of Hwy 46, on Road 45	5,900'	42-54"	Fair conditions. Area side roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31.
Edison 2 Ski/shoe/snowmobiling	4 mi. south of Hwy 46 on Road 45	5,000'	12-30"	Fair conditions. Area roads closed to Hwy vehicles Dec. 1 - March 31. There is a temporary closure on Trail 3, between junction 134 and 132, and on Trail 25, between 133 and 125B. The closure is due to logging and will be lifted when the work is complete. All other trails in the area are open.
Skyliner 2 Ski/snowshoe	Skyliner Rd MP 9	4,700'	UNK	Gate/road to Tumalo Falls is closed for the season. Road is ski/snowshoe trail.
Six Mile 2 Snowmobiling	Road 21, MP 6 East of Hwy 97	4,400'	0-10"	Poor conditions due to low snow.
Ten Mile 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 21, MP 10 East of Hwy 97	5,560'	9-30"	Fair conditions. Road 21 beyond Ten Mile closed to vehicles for winter season.
Lower Three Creek 2 Snowmobile/Ski	Road 16, MP 8	4,400'	0-6"	Poor conditions due to low snow. SnoPark not currently plowed due to low use and lack of funding.
Upper Three Creek 2 Snowmobile/ski/shoe	Road 16, MP 11	5,250'	6-30"	Fair conditions. Road 16 may not be immediately plowed after a storm.
Hwy 242 (McKenzie Pass) 2 Snomo/ski/shoe	Hwy 242, MP 7 from Sisters	3,800'	UNK	Hwy closed to summer access. Parking area may not be plowed.
Crescent Junction 2 Snowmobiling	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 1/2	4,750'	9-30"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage.
Crescent Lake 2 Snowmobiling/BC (no ski/snowshoe trails)	Hwy 58/Road 60 MP 2	4,700'	9-30"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage.
Walt Haring 2 Snowmobile/ski trails	Hwy 97, Between MP 202 and 203, north of Chemult, off FR 9772	4,800'	6-24"	Poor conditions with shallow coverage.



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For more information on winter trail grooming and maintenance, go to:

- **Meissner Nordic Club** - Ski trail grooming at Meissner – <http://www.meissnernordic.org/>
- **Central Oregon Nordic Club** - Ski/snowshoe trail maintenance on most area blue diamond trails - <http://conordicclub.org/new/>
- **DogPac** - Grooming/maintenance on ski trails open to dogs out of Wanoga Snow Play Sno-Park - <http://dogpac.org/>
- **Moon Country Snowbusters and Sisters Sno-Go-Fers Snowmobile Clubs** - Wanoga to Sisters area trail grooming – <https://mcsnowbusters.wixsite.com/website>
- **La Pine Lodgepole Dodgers Snowmobile Club** – Newberry National Volcanic Monument area trails - <http://www.lapinedodgerssnow.org/default.aspx>
- **Walker Rim Riders Snowmobile Club** - Crescent area - <http://www.walkerrimriders.com/page125235.aspx>
- **Mt. Jefferson Snowmobile Club** - Santiam Pass area - <http://www.mtjefferson.org/>
- **COTA Winter Fat Bike Trail Grooming** - out of Wanoga Snow Play Sno-Park, for the 2021-22 winter season as snow conditions allow.

WINTER MAP DOWNLOADS ON iPhone, ANDROID OR TABLET:

Using GPS, the Avenza Maps app works on your iPhone, Android or tablet to show your location on a map you have downloaded. You will need the Avenza Maps app on your device, which is free to download. Once the app is installed on your phone, go to...

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/deschutes/maps-pubs/?cid=STELPRDB5408820>

...to download PDF winter maps directly.

Deschutes National Forest Summer Trail Conditions

Last Updated: March 9th, 2022

****ALL SUMMER TRAILS ARE UNDER SNOW/INACCESSIBLE, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED BELOW****

Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District

- ❖ **Phil's Area Trails** – Snow, ice and mud – most trails are not rideable. Please do NOT ride on muddy trails, which among other things damages the trail tread.



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The following temporary trail and road closures are in effect to protect the public's safety as thinning and fuel reduction work continues:

- Storm King Trail between the junction with Forest Road 4615 and the junction with Phil's Trail.
- Phil's Trail, between the junction with EXT and it's western terminus at the junction with Pine Drops.
- Lower Whoops, Pine Drops and EXT.
- Forest Roads 320 and 322

Trail and road closures will be in place on Mondays starting at 12am through Fridays until 3pm. The closures are NOT in place on weekends and federal holidays. The trails will fully reopen when the work is completed.

E-Bikes are NOT allowed on any non-motorized trails.

For more information on COTA, go to: <http://cotamtb.com/>

- ❖ **Deschutes River Trail** – Patchy snow and mud.
- ❖ **Sun Lava Paved Path** - between Sunriver, Benham East and Lava Lands (Trailhead access points at south end of Lava Lands parking lot, Benham East or Circle 7 in Sunriver). Snow and patchy snow. Heavy use on weekends.
- ❖ **Lava Lands Trails** – Snow and patchy snow. Visitor Center is closed for the season. Trails and trailhead parking remain open.
- ❖ **Tumalo Creek 2 Trail** – Snow, packed snow and ice. Hiker only.
- ❖ **Fall River Trail** – Snow, ice and mud.
- ❖ **Horse Butte to Swamp Wells area trails** – Patchy snow and mud.
- ❖ **Peter Skene Ogden Trail** – Snow, ice and mud. Deep snow above McKay.
- ❖ **Lava Cast Forest Trailhead** – Patchy snow and ice.
- ❖ **Hoffman Island Trailhead** – Patchy snow and ice.

Sisters Ranger District:

- ❖ **Metolius River Trails** – Possible mud.
- ❖ **Suttle Lake Trail** – Snow and packed snow.
- ❖ **Lake Creek Trail** – Patchy snow and mud.
- ❖ **Whychus Creek** – Snow, packed snow and ice. **Please, stay on the main designated trail and avoid using posted and closed social trails in restoration sections.**
- ❖ **Whychus Overlook Trail** (barrier free, closed to stock and bikes) – Possible mud and possible patchy snow. Please stay on designated trails.

❖ **Peterson Ridge Trails** – Mud. Please don't ride on muddy trails. New trailhead off FR 16!

MARCH SPECIAL TRAIL EVENTS:

None that I'm aware of.

SEASONAL ROAD CLOSURES/OPENINGS:

Hwy 46	CLOSED at West Village.
FR 370	CLOSED for the winter season.
Tumalo Falls Road (FR 4603)	CLOSED for the winter season.
FR 21	CLOSED (at Ten Mile SnoPark) for the winter season.
Hwy 242	CLOSED for the winter season.
FR 16	CLOSED at Upper Three Creeks SnoPark.
FR 60	CLOSED for the winter season.

"LEAVE NO TRACE" REMINDER:

PLEASE, PRACTICE THE SEVEN LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPALS:

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Dispose of Waste Properly

Leave What You Find

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Respect Wildlife

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

For details on the 7 LNT Principals: <http://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>

TEN ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS – WHAT TO ALWAYS HAVE WITH YOU ON THE TRAIL

For details on the "Ten Essential **Systems**":

http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/ten+essentials.html?s_kwid=TC|13029|ten%20essentials||S|p|7499840765&cm_mmc=ps_google_CH-_-Category%20-%20Camp%2fHike-_-Camping%2fHiking_GeneralTerms_Essentials-_-ten%20essentials&gclid=CNq_h8Xbsq4CFQN8hwodYhH-PQ



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WILDERNESS PERMITS:

Beginning in 2021, Wilderness permits are now seasonally required at 19 trailheads for day use and all trailheads for overnight use in the Mt Jefferson, Mt Washington and Three Sisters Wildernesses. This year, permits will be required from **June 15th to October 15th, 2022**. Overnight permits will become available starting **April 5th**. Day permits will become available starting **June 10th**.

How do I learn more about the permit program?

[Willamette National Forest - Home \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/land-management/land-use/wilderness/permits)

How do I get a permit once they are available?

[Recreation.gov - Camping, Cabins, RVs, Permits, Passes & More](https://www.recreation.gov/camping/cabins/rvs/permits/passes-more)

Then put “Central Cascades Wilderness” in the search and all options will show. Reservations can also be made over the phone.

For further information on Deschutes National Forest winter or summer trails, please call:

Deschutes National Forest Headquarters: (541) 383-5300

Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District: (541) 383-4000

Sisters Ranger District: (541) 549-7700

Crescent Ranger District: (541) 433-3200

Find this weekly trail access and condition report on the Deschutes National Forest website at:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/deschutes/home/?cid=stelprdb5347630>